STOCKSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1897.

STOCKSBRIDGE:

JAMES WEBB, PRINTER AND STATIONER.

1898.

INTRODUCTION.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stocksbridge Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of this district for the year 1897.

There has been nothing of a startling nature to record, but I regret to say that there is again an increase in the Death Rate.

We have not been very much troubled with Infectious Disease, taking the year as a whole, but owing to the special needs of the case the Isolation Hospital was opened in December.

The district is in a sound sanitary condition, and the nuisances that have been dealt with have none of them been of a serious nature.

It is estimated that there has been a considerable increase in the population, and this is likely to be more than kept up for the next few years owing to the prosperity of the district and the construction of the New Waterworks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

W. M. ROBERTSHAW.

STOCKSBRIDGE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OT THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1897.

Population.—At the census of 1891 the population of the district was 5677. Owing to the good trade which the district has enjoyed for the last few years there has been a decided increase in population. It is therefore now estimated at 6,135.

Births.—During the year 1897 there have been 231 births, showing an increase of 8 over the number registered in 1896.

Of this number 124 were Boys, and 107 were Girls. This is interesting as showing a considerably greater number of males than females.

Deaths.—There have been 130 deaths registered in the district in the past year. This is a decided increase on last year's number of 113, i.e., the year 1896.

This increase has occurred largely in those under 5 years of age, there being 55 such deaths, compared with 44 in 1896.

Then again, there have been increases in the deaths from the following diseases,—in some instances considerable increases. Diarrhœa, Pneumonokoniosis, Heart Disease, Phthisis, Marasmus and Convulsions. In contrast to this it is pleasing to notice that there has been a decrease in the number of deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Year.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Death Rate.*
1889	139	25·3 per 1000
1890	107	19·2 ,,
1891	110	19·3 ,,
1892	113	19·5 ,,
1893	108	17·9 ,,
1894	119	19·6 ,,
1895	103	16·9 ,,
1896	113	18 5 ,,
1897	130	21·2 ,,

Classification of Deaths according to Age.

(*a*) UNDER 1 YEAR.—There have been 31 deaths of Infants under 1 year as compared with 29 in 1896. The percentage is therefore 23·8 whereas last year it was 25·6 o/o.

(*b*). 1 AND UNDER 5 YEARS.—In this class, 24 deaths occurred, being an increase of 9 on the number in 1896. It was in this class that a large number of the deaths from Diarrhœa took place.

(*c*). 5 AND UNDER 15 YEARS —I have to record 6 such deaths compared with 12 in 1896.

(*d*). 15 AND UNDER 25 YEARS.—The number here was 3, and in 1896 9, showing a decided decrease.

(*e*). 25 AND UNDER 65.—This totalled 39; a slight increase over the 35 of last year.

(*f*). 65 AND UPWARDS.—In this class there was a marked increase. In 1896 there were only 13 such deaths, whereas this year there were 27. This fact takes away a good deal from the apparent seriousness of the increase in the Death Rate.

Infant Mortality.—The total number of Children who died under the age of 1 year was 31. This is just a slight increase on the number of last year. Of these a large proportion died from Marasmus or Inanition. This is at the rate of 134·2 per 1000 registered births, and implies that about one-seventh of the children born have not survived their first year.

Public Health Notes.

We may congratulate ourselves on the comparative immunity that we have enjoyed from Infectious disease. There has been no epidemic, and even Measles and Whooping Cough which are almost always with us have been by no means prevalent.

Scarlet Fever.—We had 11 cases of this disease in the district during 1897, and when it is borne in mind that several of these cases occured in one house it will at once be seen that we suffered little from this pest. As will be seen from one of the tables, 2 of these cases proved fatal.

Membranous Croup.—There were 3 cases of this in 1897. No defect in the Sanitary arrangements could be found to account for any of them. It is pleasing to note that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified.

Enteric Fever.—It would give me much pleasure to be able to report a smaller number under this heading, but it is satisfactory to note that at no time was this disease very prevalent the cases being scattered over the whole year. In each case steps were taken to find out any possible defect in drainage and other Sanitary arrangements, but in no case was anything of a shocking nature discovered. In one case greater closet accommodation was advised, and the closing of a well in which there was a possibility of contamination with sewage was ordered.

Two patients suffering from Typhoid were removed for treatment to the Isolation hospital in December. Let me say here of what great value I believe that Hospital to be. At the various times at which it has been used a considerable number of patients have been treated there, and it stands to reason that these cases have been amongst the worst of the cases of Infectious disease. Notwithstanding this there has been only one death and that not directly due to the disease for which the patient was admitted. I have noticed repeatedly that cases which up to the time of admission had been suffering from high temperatures have almost immediately come down to something more approaching the normal. This, I believe, is to be largely attributed to the splendid hygienic environment which our Hospital affords.

I may say further that whereas some years ago there was great difficulty in persuading patients and their friends to let them go into the Hospital it is now no uncommon thing to be petitioned for admission.

K² 3.
(A)

Table of DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Urb
Diseases, Ages,

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as seperate localities. (Column for population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages: At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	M 1 Smallpox
STOCKSBRIDGE.	130	31	24	6	3	39	27	Under 5 5 upw'ds	

K² 11.
(B)

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, con
Stocksbridge Urban Sanitary District, clas

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as seperate localities. (a)	Population at all Ages: Last Census (b)	Estimated to middle of 1897 (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	New Cases of Sickn knowledge of: 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup,	5 Typhus
STOCKSBRIDGE	5677	6135	231	Under 5		6		2	
				5 upw'ds		5		1	

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District, Y
blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingl
the locality in which such Hospital is situated: and if not within the District, state where it is situ

Sanitary District of STOCKSBRIDGE classified according to Localities.

ITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		FEVERS.																	
Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Pneumonokoniosis.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	Total.
	2									4	8			13			1	25	55
			4			1					1		11	10	10	10	1	27	75

to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the d according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

each Locality, coming to the Medical Officer of Health.								Number of such Cases Removed from their homes in the several Localities for Treatment in the Isolation Hospital.												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FEVERS																				
Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
		1		5									2							

Since when? 1890. Besides the above mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with

State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H)

Within District, about 1 mile from Council Offices.

Respiratory Diseases.—Other than Phthisis and Pneumono-Koniosis were responsible for 26 deaths during 1897. This is a slight improvement on 1896, when there were 32 such deaths.

Phthisis and Pneumono-Koniosis.—The deaths due to these two causes show a serious increase. In 1897 there were 21 such deaths, and in 1896 only 10. As I have remarked in previous reports this district is not favourable to Phthisical people.

Notes on Sanitary Work:—

Sewage Works.—The Local Government Board gave the necessary permission for purchase of land for Outfall Works at Deepcar. This land was acquired in November, and it is presumed that the work will shortly be undertaken.

New Waterworks.—The new Waterworks undertaken by the Corporations of Sheffield and Barnsley, though out of our district have indirectly influenced it. A great number of men have come into the district to find employment at these works. The consequence of that is that all the houses in the district are occupied. Before this state of things obtained some of the humbler class of cottages were untenanted. This will necessitate increased watchfulness on the part of the Sanitary Officials, so as to prevent any possible epidemic of Infectious Disease.

Scavenging.—Owing to the great difficulty in obtaining sites for tips, the competition for this work was limited, and the work necessarily was retarded. If the Council could obtain sites for tips, or means of disposal, it is probable that this work could be done with better satisfaction by their own staff, as was formerly the case.

Infectious Diseases.—At the commencement of the Autumn I deemed it advisable to recommend the issue of notices as to the prevention of Diarrhœa and Typhoid Fever. This was carried out by the Council, the notices of precautionary measures being posted throughout the district.

In every case where an infectious disease has been notified, the premises have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and instructions verbal and written given. Disinfectants have also been supplied free of charge.

We were advised at the beginning of the year of the arrival in the district of a passenger from India one of whose fellow-passengers had died of the Plague. The case was kept under observation, but fortunately nothing of an untoward nature occurred.

In conclusion, I beg to state my indebtedness in my work throughout the year to your Sanitary Inspector. A great deal of sanitary work is done which is not recorded in any report; the result is, that as far as sanitation is concerned, our district will compare favourably with any of the surrounding districts.

W. M. ROBERTSHAW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table of Classification of Causes of Death.

	Under 5	Over 5	Total.
Class I.—Zymotic Diseases.			
Scarlet Fever	2	0	2
Whooping Cough	4	0	4
Membranous Croup	2	0	2
Enteric Fever	0	4	4
Diarrhœa	8	1	9
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1
Class IV.—Constitutional Diseases.			
Rickets...	1	0	1
Cancer...	0	2	2
Tabes Mesenterica	1	0	1
Scrofulous Diseases	7	2	9
Phthisis	0	11	11
Class V.—Developemental Diseases.			
Premature Birth...	3	0	3
Senile Decay	0	8	8
Class VI.—Local Diseases.			
Diseases of Nervous System	10	3	13
Diseases of Circulatory System ...	0	10	10
Diseases of Respiratory ,, ...	13	21	34
Diseases of Digestive ,, ...	0	2	2
Diseases of Urinary ,, ...	0	1	1
Class VII.—Violence.			
Accidents	1	1	2
Class VIII. Causes not specified above	5	6	11
Totals	55	75	130

TABLE C. 1897.

Stocksbridge Urban Sanitary District.

MEDCIAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—W. M. Robertshaw, M.B. & C.M.
SANITARY INSPECTOR.—J. Marsden.
WATER SUPPLY.—

No. of Houses having constant Public supply—1,030.

Obtained from—Springs 2 or 3 miles distant from centre of population.

Gathering Grounds. { Situation—Witwell Moor and Langley Brook Districts.
Extent—

Any inadequacy in any part– No.

Quality—Good. Action on Lead—None.

Any extensions or change during 1897 ?—Extensions to New Houses.

SEWERAGE.—Extensions or improvements during 1897 ?—None.
SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Treatment now in operation—Carried into the River.

(or proposed)—Disposal Works Scheme under consideration.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Not adopted.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Not adopted.

BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS IN FORCE—

SUBJECT.	Date of Adoption	In-spection.	General Condition.
Scavenging	1895	Frequent	Fair.
Nuisances	,,	,,	,,
Common Lodging Houses	,,	,,	,,
New Streets and Buildings	,,	,,	
Dairies	,,	,,	Good.
Cowsheds	,,	,,	,,
Milkshops...	,,	,,	,,
Slaughter Houses... ...	,,	,,	,,
Workshops...			,,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—

SUBJECT AND LOCALITY.	DATE.
Scheme before L. G. B. Sewage Disposal.	
L. G. B. Inquiries. None	
L. G. B. Inspections. None.	

SPECIAL REPORTS by M. O. H. during 1897—None.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Any action during 1897.—Opened in December for 2 cases.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Number of Houses built during 1897—15. General character—Good.

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made—No, but as occasion demands. Bad property inspected frequently.

Total No of Nuisances in hand at close of 1896—12. At close of 1897—13.

Reported during 1897—36. Abated during 1897—35.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1897—20.

" " trapped " 20.

No. of Closets constructed during 1897—15. Kinds—Privy Middens.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters:—

Houses unfit for habitation—None. Overcrowding—None.

Seizure of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.

Samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None. Prosecutions—None.

River Pollution—None.

Smoke Abatement—No. of observations taken—None.

Schools—No. in District—5. No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease—None.

Total duration of closure from this cause—None.

Burial Grounds—No. in District—1. Any need for extension?—No.

Vaccination—General efficiency—Good, though a considerable number of Anti-vaccinators.

BIRTHS.—Males—124. Females—107. Total—231.

Number illegitimate, included in the above—Not known.

Any information as to Still Births—No.

DEATHS.—Males—77. Females—53. Total—130.

Number uncertified, included in the above—6.

RATEABLE VALUE as stated in Valuation List.	Value upon which the General District Rate is assessed.			Rate in the £ 1897.
	Full Rateable Value (Houses, etc.)	One-fourth Rateable Value. (Land, etc.)	Two-thirds Rateable Value, (where owner is assessed.)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
£18,890.	£14,790.	£1,024.		s. d. 2 4 in £.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT & SUGGESTIONS OF M.O.H.—See Report.